The Limbaugh Letter

Dedicated to preserving my wisdom for the ages

GREETINGS ONCE AGAIN, fellow analysts, and welcome to the eleventh stellar issue of ***The Limbaugh Letter,*** my sizzling journal of opinion. This publication is so hot, in fact, that we can hardly keep up with our own milestones. Shortly after the last issue was mailed, we reached the 300,000th-subscriber benchmark. Three weeks later, we are at 330,000. Since our research shows most of you pass along your copies to at least two fortunate people, we know readership is closing in on a million. Not to mention you liberals — in perpetual search of a free lunch — who are illicitly reproducing it.

This issue is loaded, friends, with the economic ammunition you need to torpedo defenders of Clinton's tax plan. In a special insert, I include my transcendental conversation with John F. Kennedy as he reveals the secret to economic growth that Democrats have kept from you for three decades. For the first time in print I provide my brilliant tutorial on the 1990 Budget Deal. And, although conventional wisdom holds that Clinton's tax bill is a done deal, Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole divulges in these pages that the battle isn't over yet, and he explains what you can do to defeat it.

So, get to it.

Why Not Be the Best?

IT IS AXIOMATIC, MY FRIENDS: LIBERALS HATE COMPETITION. The idea is anathema to them. Their revulsion is so deeply rooted and so central to their cause that, I would submit, more energy and activism is currently devoted to its demise than nearly any other notion.

"Oh, come on, Rush," you say. "You're being overly harsh." No. I'm not. This abhorrence of competition is at the heart of many of the most damaging social engineering movements that define political correctness today: the push for so-called "diversity," multiculturalism, "fairness," the obsession with self-esteem — you name it, at its core is the worm of anti-competition. Examples abound in every facet of the culture; but nowhere is this more pronounced — or more heinous — than in education.

A subscriber recently sent me a copy of a letter from the president of the Georgia Art Education Association, who had been asked to judge a children's coloring contest at a local restaurant:

> "I am adamantly opposed to contests at the elementary age level. For the children you choose who will perceive themselves as 'winners,' there will be hundreds who will see themselves as 'losers.' Such contests can be harmful to the child's self-concept and self-confidence. They exploit students; the sponsoring organizations are often unaware that imposed competition is developmentally inappropriate for young children. As I believe the purpose of your coloring contest will not be beneficial to young children, but possibly hurt them by using elements of competition which they do not fully understand, I must decline your invitation."

continued on page 11

My conversation with

Bob Dole

I was very pleased to be able to speak with the Senate Minority Leader, who has done a superb job of keeping the Republicans united against the Clinton tax plan. We conversed the day after the Senate approved the plan with a 50-49 vote.

Rush: Senator Dole, if we are to believe that what we've just done is fix the evil lack of compassion that existed in the 80s... why aren't the middle class and the poor celebrating? Why aren't they throwing parties today?

Dole: People are too sophisticated. They're too smart. They listen. They read. They watch television. They listen to talk shows. And I don't think they can hire enough spin doctors at the White House. The American people want to cut the deficit. They share President Clinton's view on that. But not this way.

Rush: But this doesn't cut the deficit.

Dole: No, it doesn't cut the deficit.

Rush: We've got a deficit in '87, '88, '89 of $150 billion. That's down from $221 billion in '86. Yet Clinton's own deficit projection figures show deficits of from $290 to $302 billion in the next five years. How is that deficit reduction?

Dole: It's not. In fact, they were a little embarrassed when their charts showed just a very minor reduction, with the little lines going up after five years. And then President Clinton throws in health care. He's trying to convince people that this is just a first step. Then come big taxes on health care, and that is supposed to help the economy and drive down spending.

I think what they've done is a very clever maneuver. They know this won't cut the deficit. It's going to be about the same in the next five years. They keep saying: Well, just give us this tax plan, and then we'll go after health care, and we'll tax you some more, and that'll really deal with the deficit. But it's not going to happen.

Rush: What *is* going to happen? First let me say that I think the Republican Party would be in a terrible fix if you hadn't stepped up and taken the hits and opposed this thing. Every time you needed to keep the Republicans in line, you did. Not one Republican voted for it. But what's really going to happen to the U.S. economy? Give us your honest assessment.

Dole: My view is based on talking with real people — small business people, farmers, housewives — who believe that the increased taxes will have an adverse impact. These folks are not going to hire anybody. They're not going to expand their businesses. They're not going to do things on the farm they've wanted to do. They're not going to buy appliances for the home. They're going to wait and see just how bad this final blow's going to be.

And then they're going to wait longer, because they don't know what President and Mrs. Clinton might have in mind on health care. I picked up the *Los Angeles Times* about two weeks ago, and the headline read: "Twelve Percent Payroll Tax." The American people can't stand another big payroll tax. Besides, if President Clinton's approach works he'll be a world beater, because we can't find any country in the world, ever in history, where big tax increases stimulated the economy.

> Rush: This plan, which will bump small business owners into the so-called fairness bracket, looks to me like a concerted effort to destroy anybody's desire to try to achieve.

Rush: No. It hasn't happened. And that takes me to my next question. We don't even need to look to another country. Let's look at the United States in 1990. I spent an entire week on both radio and TV comparing the statements Jim Sasser, Leon Panetta, Tom Foley, and Jay Rockefeller made after the 1990 budget deal to what they said as they lobbied for this bill. And I'll tell you, Senator Dole, it's an insult to everybody's intelligence. In 1990 it was a $500 billion deficit reduction bill. It was taxes only on those with incomes of $200,000 and above. People who made $20,000 weren't going to get hurt. The beer tax went up. The wine tax went up —

Dole: The luxury tax.

Rush: The luxury tax soared. The income tax rates on the rich went up from 28 to 31 percent, because we had to get even with them. This is nothing more than a repeat. If that was so good and so successful, why do we need to do it again?

Dole: In fact, this one's even worse. In 1990 at least we had two dollars in spending cuts for every dollar in taxes. We did put in some fiscal discipline. We got spending caps on defense and social programs, and it made a little difference. The final version last night was $2.11 in taxes and fees for every dollar in spending cuts. Now the bill goes back to the House, which voted for a package that is 6-to-1, taxes over spending cuts. So I predict it will come out about 3-to-1, taxes over spending cuts.

It can't work. In fact, I think it's a lose/lose for President Clinton. If he loses the vote, he loses a lot of prestige. But if he wins the vote, he loses the American people, and it hurts the economy.

Rush: I look at this tax increase on achievement and punishment of it. I look at the fact that 80 percent of small business owners file as individuals, which is going to now bump them to the 39.6 percent rate — the so-called fairness bracket.

Dole: Plus about five percent more.

Rush: Yes, the surtax on millionaires. And he's got the capital gains surtax. I've been saying that what this Administration wants to do is punish achievement. This looks to me like there is almost a concerted effort to destroy anybody's desire to try to achieve.

Dole: We've been trying, and perhaps we haven't done a very good job of it, but we've been trying to make the distinction between successful people and, quote, "the rich." People are successful if they work hard and save their money and build a business and hire people and provide jobs and opportunities for others in America. That's the American success story.

But it seems to me that this Administration is so anti-business that they're trying to punish everyone who has made it work. In fact, the small business tax could be ten points higher than the tax on corporations — and it's small business that generates the jobs. About 4.1 million jobs have been created by small business in the past few years while big business has been downsizing.

So in my view, it's a real downer for small business. As I said on the Senate floor, I think President Clinton has earned his place on Mount Taxmore.

> Dole: It's a lose/lose for President Clinton. If he loses the vote, he loses prestige. But if he wins the vote, he loses the American people, and hurts the economy.

Rush: Could the President have been elected, had he run on this plan?

Dole: No way. In fact, Senator Al D'Amato from New York and Senator Don Nickles from Oklahoma and others have been quoting from Clinton's book, "Putting People First," all the promises he made about helping small business and no middle-class taxes.

Rush: So where's the public outrage, Senator?

Dole: It's out there. They're not marching on Washington yet. But they might if Congress keeps the retroactive provisions in this tax bill, which are still in there.

Rush: Wait a minute. The new taxes will be retroactive to January of 1993?

Dole: That's right.

Rush: I thought Moynihan got those pushed back to July.

Dole: That's what he says. But since they couldn't just start the tax in July, they've made a bookkeeping change where the tax is blended and the rate for 1993 could be as high as 35.3 percent. And the corporate taxes still start on January 1, 1993. In fact, I offered an amendment along with Senator Burns from Montana to make the tax take effect on the date of enactment. That sounds like a better policy to us. But only two Democrats voted with us.

Rush: You say the public is "not marching on Washington yet." How do you know seething anger exists?

Dole: By phone calls. Especially after your talk show or after something happens on C-SPAN or the evening news. Let me give you an example. The Democrats have been trotting Stanley Collender from Price-Waterhouse around as a real expert, who has been saying what a great package the Clinton program was. He's been quoted by CBS and Senator George Mitchell as a great, objective analyst. Well, we nailed him. We revealed he was a big Democratic contributor who worked for three big liberals — Elizabeth Holtzman, Tom Downey, and Pete Stark. He called in complaining that he had gotten 60 phone calls in the first hour. So you know people are listening.

Rush: The calls may have had an effect. Still, the tax bill passed the Senate. Now you go to conference. Explain to readers what the process is.

Dole: When it comes out of conference it's got to be debated and voted on again. There's a time limit — ten hours on each side. After the House votes it'll come to the Senate for twenty hours of debate. I think the strategy would be to pick off three or four people who voted for it and work on them. You're never going to have time to explain the whole bill to everybody. But everyone knows it's bad.

Rush: Can it still be beaten?

Dole: It can — unless they drop a lot of the taxes and take out some of the new spending.

Rush: What would you advise people do?

Dole: I would take a look at Members of Congress up for re-election in 1994. In the Senate, people like Senator Don Reigle of Michigan, Senator Harris Wofford of Pennsylvania, New Jersey Senator Frank Lautenberg — who did vote against the bill.

Rush: He remembers history.

Dole: That's right. He remembers the reaction to New Jersey Gov. Florio's taxes. But I would recommend people pick out four or five Senators up for re-election and really zero in on them. That's how you're going to have an impact. I don't think we can have the impact by saying: This is bad about the bill, or that's bad. We've got to pick out target voters in Congress who can be turned around. I don't believe most of the six Democrats who already voted against the bill will change their position. We need to pick up two or three more. I don't believe we're going to lose any Republicans and, of course, Senator Arlen Specter, who was out sick, will be back by the time the conference report gets back to the Senate.

Rush: What has changed in your life, as you have assumed the leadership role for the Republican party in this battle? I look at the editorials in the newspaper. You're being creamed.

Dole: Oh, boy, the *Times* and the *Washington Post* got me today. It's all right, so long as they know we did have a plan. We didn't raise taxes. We did cut spending. We had an alternative. They cried for it, then when they got it, they beat us over the head with it.

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But obviously, we're a lot busier, just as you are, every day. It seems that when you're the Republican leader, there's a lot of places you need to go, because you don't have the Cabinet, you don't have the President, the Vice President. We have good Republicans, though, out there. So I kind of enjoy it.

Rush: You seem to be energized by it, you seem not to have lost your humor, you seem not to have lost your desire to spat with these people. And you're holding your own rather well against the criticism, such as the *New York Times* writing: "Cravenly eyeing the '94 elections, Mr. Dole and the Senate Republicans are peddling a tired and dangerous vision."

This leads me to a question about the media. This plan is simply a redo of the 1990 budget deal, and it didn't work. TEFRA didn't work. Tax increases have never once brought this nation to prosperity. Yet the 80s did work. The tax rate reductions caused an influx of new revenue, and lower rates brought an increase in revenue. The revenues went from $515 billion to some $900 billion. Why won't the media report the facts? Why is there this constant negative ideological tinge to what they report when it comes to taxes?

Dole: It's even worse. You'd think America was discovered twelve years ago when Ronald Reagan got off the Mayflower. That's how they like to depict it. Because of Reagan and Bush the country's in a mess, and poor President Clinton doesn't have any alternative except to try to clean it up and make it work. And he gets sympathy, even though they had a Democratic House all those twelve years, and a Democratic Senate for six of the twelve. So nothing happened without the Democrats' input.

Rush: You were instrumental in TEFRA in 1985, which was specifically to reduce the deficit. You got the large tax increase. But there were promised spending cuts.

Dole: The promise was two dollars of spending cuts for every dollar in taxes.

Rush: It never happened.

Dole: President Reagan told me he got something like 78 cents.

Rush: So why are we to believe it's going to happen now?

Dole: That's why we don't believe it's going to happen. We've said so, and the press has taken us on as not having "confidence in the system." Well, we know how the system works.

That's how they got this big $500 billion so-called "deficit reduction" package — by including a lot of things that are never going to happen, and by counting interest savings as spending cuts. It may be up to about a $400-billion package now on the Senate side, and $300 billion and some on the House side. But my view is that we can still help the American people and help the economy by killing this package, and I think we ought to focus on that.

Rush: That's on a lot of people's minds as they become educated. The dirty little secrets of Washington are becoming known. "Spending cuts" are simply reductions in scheduled increases, but they're still increases. "Deficit reduction" is simply a smaller expansion than was planned. When Congress says, "We're going to cut spending; we're going to cut deficits," both go up. And people, once you show them the numbers, are beginning to see this.

That's why I think it was a crucial strategic maneuver for you to make sure that no Republicans sided with one tax increase in this bill. Because it's going to do great damage to the country. It's going to harm expansion. The capital gains punishment will keep people from hiring employees and expanding their business. Preservation of principal will become the objective of the wealthy, and of the middle-class business owners. They're not going to try to grow principal, just hold on to what they have and try not to lose it. When you're not expanding, then you're not hiring.

Dole: And, when everything else fails, the liberals in Congress go after "the rich." Then they go after us for "defending the rich."

Rush: But now they can't go after you. You didn't vote for it. They can say, and I'm sure you're aware of this, that the original plan Clinton wanted, he didn't get, because guys like Bob Dole stood in the way and made them change it. Prepare yourself to be blamed when this thing doesn't work.

Dole: Right. And as for the Republicans defending the rich, we couldn't even reach the rich. They're all having lunch every day at the White House. While they're attacking us on wealth, they're out wining and dining the rich. But I think people see through the old class warfare rhetoric.

Rush: But it worked in '90. And it worked to get Clinton elected.

Dole: Still, if President Clinton would have kept his promises, he'd have a 60 percent approval rating instead of 37 percent.

Rush: Well he got his bill passed.

Dole: He's not home yet. And every day it's delayed we can crank up the heat.

Rush: When do you think the conference will finish?

Dole: We probably won't vote on the conference report until the first week in August.

Rush: Do you think it could be delayed past the August recess?

Dole: That would be great. Then they'd never pass it, in my view.

Rush: A couple of things people have said. Arkansas Senator David Pryor this week said on the floor of the Senate: "Finally we have a president who admits there's a deficit."

Dole: Oh, no. President Reagan admitted there was a deficit and tried to deal with it. Certainly, George Bush probably lost the election because he acknowledged the deficit and made a deal with the Democrats. When you deal with them, you know you're going to get higher taxes. In 1985, when I was the Majority Leader, we passed a $273 billion package in the Senate without taxes. We got one Democrat to vote for us. David Pryor was there, and he voted no. So he ought to go back and check the record.

Rush: West Virginia Senator Jay Rockefeller was asked: What's the difference between the 1990 budget deal and this one? He said: "George Bush didn't mean it, and Bill Clinton does."

Dole: At least Bush demanded two dollars in cuts for every dollar in taxes. This is just the reverse — and will probably be worse.

Rush: Senator, thanks so much for taking time.

Dole: Good luck to you!

The last time Senator Dole and I participated in the same editorial space, we were on the receiving end of some dubious attempts at Clinton humor. Fortunately, this time we are inhabiting the arena of truth and good cheer.

Many people say I need to be balanced with equal time. Not so — I AM...

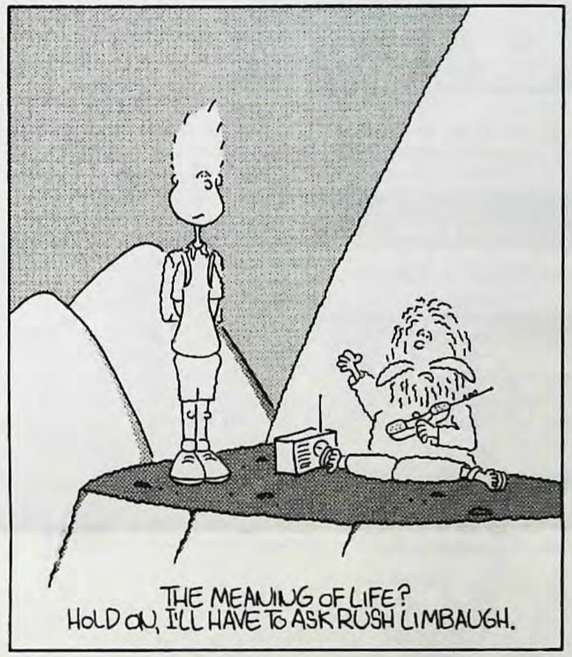
Equal Time

A sampling of my genius, to be widely quoted and disseminated

Bikini-phobia

On his desk at work, Chris Robinson, a graduate assistant in the psychology department at the University of Nebraska, had a picture of his wife... in a bikini. That's nice, you say? Oh, *nooo*. Two female graduate students who worked with Chris demanded that the photograph be removed from his desk... because it violated the sexual harassment policy of the university.

Now it is undisputed that the two women were never harassed by Chris Robinson, verbally or physically. Nevertheless department chair John Berman, concluding that female students coming into the office "might be offended" by the picture, ordered it removed. The university's assistant general counsel, Carmen Maurer — who admits to never having seen the picture — stated that the only standard needed for sexual harassment was the offended women's "own reasonable judgment." My friends, the inmates have taken over the asylum.



RUSS CAUDILL © 1993 STRETCH

Rats

Lisa Chapman, 23, who says she is homeless and unemployed, was fined $120 by a British court and ordered to pay $75 in court costs for leaving Ziggy — her pet rat — for six days without water and only a tiny piece of cheese. Ziggy assumed room temperature. Chief inspector John Paul of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, a British animal rights wacko group, said: "That was a warmblooded animal that can suffer pain and starvation, just like any human being." There you have it, my friends. Let's get rat companions into Hillary's health care plan.

Bear Necessities

You're in your yard and a grizzly bear charges: what do you do? Before you answer, better read this. In 1989 Montana rancher John Shuler came across three bears on his property. He fired warning shots to scare them off, but a fourth bear charged him from behind. Shuler, desirous of living, shot it. The bear went down, and the rancher left it for dead. When Shuler returned to the scene, he found the bear, wounded but alive — and enraged. The bear charged him again. Shuler responded again with a gunshot. This time, the bear assumed yard temperature. Dead. Gone.

But Shuler's woes were just beginning. Now a federal judge has slapped the rancher with a $4000 fine. The grizzly, you see, was protected by the Endangered Species Act. The judge ruled that Shuler could not claim he acted in self-defense... because he had "provoked" the incident.

So, if you find an angry bear on your property who wants to maul you, you can force him to leave — if you ask real nice.

Court Diagnosis

Many pundits and analysts in the media have called Bill Clinton's Supreme Court nominee, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, a "healer." Why? you ask? The reason is simple. The Court has too many conservatives on it, and is therefore obviously wounded and in dire need of major therapy.

Boycott Update

According to an AP report, Colorado's ski industry posted a "banner" 1992-93 season. Colorado Ski Country USA reported a 5.6 percent increase in tourists over last year. Retail spending in ski resort areas was up 8.5 percent. With numbers like those, Colorado is hoping for another boycott this year.

Fold Your own

For all those of you who are still unsure as to how to make your Deficit Spending Awareness Ribbon, here are simple, step-by-step instructions — another reason you need ***The Limbaugh Letter.***

STEP 1: PLACE BILL SILVER SIDE UP ON A CLEAN, FLAT SURFACE.

STEP 2: FOLD IN HALF LENGTHWISE.

STEP 3: FOLD IN HALF AGAIN LENGTHWISE. TO ANNOY LIBERALS, KEEP MOTTO "IN GOD WE TRUST" IN VIEW.

STEP 4: REPEAT STEP 3.

STEP 5: TWIST INTO SENSITIVITY RIBBON SHAPE AND PIN TO YOUR CLOTHING TO PROVE THAT YOU CARE MORE ABOUT THE DEFICIT THAN ANYONE ELSE.

Filthy Rich

The President has returned often to his favorite theme: class envy. "Asking all Americans to do what is right and fair," he urged you to support higher taxes on the greedy people who dared succeed in the 80s.

So let me tell you just who the rich are. For over twenty years Thomas J. Stanley, former professor of marketing at Georgia State University, has been studying how people become millionaires.

"Who tends to become rich?" Stanley asks in a recent article in *Medical Economics*. He explains: "[The rich are] not the exotic back-stabbers and dabblers in high finance you see depicted on TV. The average person with a net worth of $1 million or more is usually a businessman who has lived all his adult life in the same town. He owns a small factory, a chain of stores, or a service company. Married once, and still married, he lives in a middle-class neighborhood, next to people with a fraction of his wealth. He's a compulsive saver and investor. And he's made his money on his own: 80 percent of America's millionaires are first-generation rich." These are the people President Clinton attacks so bitterly, whose work and achievement he wants to punish. They are not jet-setters, they are not uncaring folks who made it on someone else's back... they are your neighbors. Someday you could be among them — unless this Administration gets its way.

New Business

A recent issue of *The New Republic* spotlights one of America's fastest-growing multimillion-dollar business — and I'm not making this up — it's "diversity management."

Many well-known corporations are hiring diversity consultants to help them train their managers to become sensitive to "value differences." The first step is a "culture audit," which can cost between $30,000 and $100,000. This reveals "cultural roots" in the organization which offend diversity. Tom Nelson, vice president of Education and Training at U.S. Bancorp, says firms must abandon "white male" management practices. One of those is the widespread notion that "fairness equals treating people the same." In other words, there should be different standards for different groups. What do diversity consultants charge? Up to $10,000 a day.

It's what I always tell you: *follow the money*. And now you know how the Clinton Administration plans to create millions of jobs — we're going to be a nation of diversity consultants.

Diversity Blues

Here's an example of what happens when the quest for diversity is implemented in government. *Roll Call*, a publication about Capitol Hill events, reports that the Clinton Administration and Capitol Hill staffers are at odds. At issue is White House tours. In the old days, tours were given on a first-come, first-served basis. But "the politics of meaning" dictates that diversity must come first. So civic groups and families who used to book White House tours through congressional offices are now denied tickets... because they don't meet diversity requirements.

Meanwhile, one of the major reasons hundreds of jobs in the Clinton Administration remain unfilled is that diversity quotas are holding things up.

There is a solution to this mess, folks. Throw out the diversity management and bring back common sense.

Cleanup Crew

The Wall Street Journal recently recounted a story from Linden, NJ that illustrates why so many towns across the fruited plain find themselves going broke.

A Linden resident suffering from a thyroid condition took an iodine pill. It didn't agree with him. He got sick. His lunch defied the law of gravity... What went down, came up. Instantly, New Jersey had an environmental crisis. The state's Department of Environmental Protection and Energy was called to the scene and declared the resident's lost lunch "radioactive waste." An inspector was dispatched, as well as a waste disposal crew — outfitted in mask and gloves — to conduct the cleanup. The fire department was called. The town sent a police car and an emergency vehicle to support the massive operation. A spokesman for New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection and energy explained these procedures were necessary because the incident took place near a school... and, after all, the pill contained "hazardous radiation."

The exact cost of the lost lunch isn't known, but estimates run into the thousands of dollars. Government in action! And you, my friends, as always, pay the tab.

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STUPID QUOTES OF THE MONTH

"It can't be any worse than the other things we have passed."
— SEN. JAMES EXON (D., NEB) ON PASSING CLINTON'S TAX BILL, QUOTED IN *THE WASHINGTON POST*
How's that for an enthusiastic endorsement of your economic plan, Mr. President?

"Socking it to the middle class is over. The election of President Clinton ended the socking it to the middle class."
— SEN. GEORGE MITCHELL, AP
So why isn't the middle class celebrating?

"The Clinton Administration, it is now becoming clear, is like a boat headed out to sea, dragging its anchor, with half the passengers seasick and several of the crew having fallen overboard. There's constant trouble in the mate's mess, and the captain is navigating by the stars, having long ago lost his charts. But, by gosh, it is forging along."
— THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN, REPORTER, IN *THE NEW YORK TIMES*
But by gosh, abandon ship!

"President Clinton is getting into trouble because he's not acting like a man. He is taking his time, he is processing a lot of information, he is working his mind and he is letting his emotions influence his decisions... His opponents accuse him of such high crimes as wavering and indecision. He zigzags... He is secure enough that he can change his mind."
— JUDY MANN, COLUMNIST, IN *THE WASHINGTON POST*
No wonder these people like Mario Cuomo.

"This is the most decisive Presidency you've had in a very long time on all the big issues that matter."
— BILL CLINTON, QUOTED IN *THE NEW YORK TIMES*
I see a certain capacity for self-delusion here, my friends...

"Bill Clinton is the first genuine fiscal conservative to occupy the White House in 12 years."
— SEN. ERNEST "FRITZ" HOLLINGS, QUOTED IN *FLORIDA TIMES-UNION*
Apparently the delusion is contagious.

"I've invented a process around Interior called 'Campfire.' I said to my employees: 'I can't have you all around a campfire, but when you have ideas, send them to me and pretend that you're around a fire and mark it 'Campfire' on the envelope, and I'll read them all.' It's the best substitute I can find."
— INTERIOR SECRETARY BRUCE BABBITT, QUOTED IN *USA WEEKEND*.
And this guy almost made it to the Supreme Court!

"I'm on my medication now."
— ROBERT BOORSTIN, OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN FOR THE PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON NATIONAL HEALTH CARE REFORM, AT A NATIONAL PRESS CLUB BREAKFAST, AFTER SHOCKING HIS AUDIENCE BY CASUALLY REVEALING THAT HE HAS "PSYCHOTIC EPISODES," QUOTED IN *GQ*
It figures.

"If we could be one-one-hundredth as great as you and Hillary Rodham Clinton have been together in the White House, we'd take it right now and walk away winners."
— DAN RATHER, TO PRESIDENT AND MRS. CLINTON, DISCUSSING HIS PARTNERSHIP WITH CONNIE CHUNG, QUOTED IN *THE NEW REPUBLIC*
Just mark it "Campfire," Dan.

"The briefing book says it is supposed to be a roundtable discussion."
— AIDE TO VICE PRESIDENT GORE, EXPLAINING WHY HE DEMANDED THE DENVER POST EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT REPLACE ITS RECTANGULAR CONFERENCE TABLE IN PREPARATION FOR A DISCUSSION WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT ON INEFFICIENCY AND WASTE IN GOVERNMENT, QUOTED IN *THE DENVER POST*
There you have it, my friends: the people in charge of reinventing government.

I Think That I Shall Never See...

My friends, I have sad news for you. Very sad. It is my duty to tell you about a funeral. And I will... if I can just make it through this without breaking down. The funeral was held at the First Parish Unitarian Church in Brookline, Massachusetts, the Reverend David Johnson officiating. The deceased was surrounded by burning candles and fragrant flowers. The deceased was one hundred years old — excuse me, I need to compose myself.

The deceased was... a tree. That's right. A tree.

The tree once stood at the edge of church property, on a school construction site. Officials felt its large branches would hang too close to the school, posing a danger to children. So they wanted it removed. A nineteen-month legal battle ensued, and in the end the courageous tree lost the fight.

At the funeral a flyer was distributed, paying homage. "It became an unusually tall and graceful tree in its maturity... It leaves no offspring, as it was the last tree on the high slope behind the Parsonage." In the eulogy Reverend Johnson, quoting from a poem, asked: "Is there a more unnerving sound than the hideous, mechanistic screech of a buzz saw at work? It is an anti-sound..." Not really, Rev. It's music to my ears. And just think: You can build things from that tree! Add a few pews in the back of your church!

BOB LANG

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According to Me

From the Limbaugh Institute for Advanced Conservative Studies

Folks, we're not going to get sidetracked here. They can hunt warlords in Somalia, bomb janitors in Baghdad, hang out with the lovely new Canadian Prime Minister in Tokyo. It won't distract us. We are going to pound and pound this message home — for the record — because...

You Are Being Lied To

IT ALL BEGAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, with the election of William Jefferson Blythe Clinton, after a campaign conducted under the auspices of change. "We must," he said, "have the courage to change." The policies of the last 12 years — the shame, the guilt, the unfairness — had brought us, he said, to the brink of economic destruction, the end of America, "the worst economy in the last 50 years."

Which has led the President of the United States to come up with a budget plan to fix the problem. He is going to reduce the budget deficit by $500 billion over five years.

How? His Administration will raise taxes on wine, beer and cigarettes; the "sin taxes." They will increase the gasoline tax. They will tax only the rich — those who make $200,000 a year or more — raising their top marginal rate from 31 to 36 percent. And don't forget the 10 percent "millionaire's surtax," which applies to those making $250,000 or more a year (as Al Gore told us on "Larry King Live," if you make a quarter million dollars a year for four years, you're a millionaire.) If you make $20,000 a year or less, you won't pay anything.

This is change. This is new courage, a new course. These are the tough choices which have not been made before, to fix what's gone wrong in the last 12 years.

It's the same Democrats with the same insulting rhetoric. They think we are too stupid to remember; they know the media will not replay what they said in 1990. But now we're here.

MY FRIENDS, let us revisit the 1990 budget deal, or "The 1990 Deficit Reduction Act," as it was called. I want to take you to the beginning of the unraveling of a presidency.

> **"The bipartisan leaders and I have reached agreement on the federal budget. Over five years, it would reduce the projected deficit by $500 billion. That is a half a trillion dollars."**
> **— George Bush, September 30, 1990**

Where have you heard this before? Two and a half years ago, George Bush agreed with Democratic leaders of Congress to reduce the budget deficit by $500 billion over five years. Let's look at some of the taxes in the 1990 budget deal:

- Income tax increased on incomes of $200,000 or more
- Beer tax doubled: from $9 to $18 a barrel
- Table wine tax increased 629 percent: from 17 cents a gallon to $1.07 a gallon
- Gasoline tax increased 5 cents a gallon
- Cigarette tax increased 4 cents a pack as of January, 1991; 4 more cents a pack as of January, 1993

Where have we heard this? Did we hear it last night? And the day before? We've heard it ad nauseam for a year from President Clinton: we've got to reduce the budget deficit by 500 billion over five years... his courageous plan of change will fix the problems brought on by the failed policies of the last 12 years.

> **"I do not welcome any such tax measures, nor do I expect anybody up here does. However, this one does have the virtue not only of contributing to deficit reduction, but also over time of decreasing America's dependence on foreign oil, an objective whose importance has become increasingly evident in the face of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait."**
> **— George Bush, same day**

Sound familiar? There's a gasoline tax in Clinton's budget, just as there was a gasoline tax in the 1990 Budget Deal. Why? It's only two and a half years later. Why should we be re-taxed for something that didn't work the first time?

> **"Is there sacrifice involved? You bet there is. You can't develop a deficit-reduction package that doesn't involve sacrifice on the part of everyone. The economy is in desperate straits. And the question we have to ask tonight is what happens if we fail? That's the question you have to ask. What happens to this economy if we fail to adopt a serious deficit-reduction package for this country? The answer to that is that if we fail, it is almost comparable to an act of irresponsibility by us because we know that if we fail, we doom our economy to a deep recession."**
> **— Rep. Leon Panetta, October 1990**

Excuse me, Congressman Panetta, but you did fail. You got the thing passed, but we had a deep recession with your plan, and you didn't reduce the deficit one penny. The deficit got bigger. And if we compound the mistakes you and your fellow Democrats forced on us back in 1990, we march backward toward recession.

> **"So we can produce a reconciliation bill in ten days or two weeks that we can bring out here and get 218 votes, half of this side and half of this side, so that we can address this deficit problem that everybody in this room knows has to be solved for the future of the country, and I would even say, the future of the world. We can do it."**
> **— Rep. Richard Gephardt, 1990**

THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD! In the meantime, the world is crashing down around us. Europe, thought to be the focal point of prosperity, now has 11 percent unemployment. Despite the errors of the 1990 budget deal, the United States economy is stronger than anywhere else in the world. It could be so much stronger. But these guys are going to wreck it again. What they did in 1990 to "reduce the deficit" is identical to what they have in store for us again. The new plan is word for word, policy for policy, idea for idea, ideology for ideology, approach for approach, the same plan. Although it's designed to fix what's gone wrong the last 12 years, all we have to do is go back 2 1/2 years and not make the same mistakes again.

> **"We said at the beginning of the process that we're going to be concerned that any of the burdens we're asking the American people to bear and bring down the deficit would be borne fairly and equitably, and based on the ability to pay. That's exactly what happened in the final product. What the Senate adopted tonight what the House adopted at 7 a.m this morning, reflects a very strong and progressive proposal in terms of ability to pay. Those who earn less than $20,000 actually have their tax burden reduced. Those in the middle income areas carry only the responsibility for increased levies on beer and wine and cigarettes which are largely voluntary taxes in a sense, plus a five cent gasoline tax. The income tax effects are totally those of higher income levels, mostly areas over $200,000 a year. So the progressivity effect on this package has been achieved. There are savings in the proposal as well. Two times the amount of tax revenues are achieved in savings, domestic entitlement savings and defense, discretionary savings."**
> **— Thomas Foley, Speaker of the House, October 27, 1990**

With all of these savings, Congressman Foley, why do we need another tax increase? If you raised so much revenue with the tax increases of 1990 and saved so much money with the budget cuts of 1990, then why do we have to do it again?

I'LL TELL YOU WHY. Because it is a sham. None of this is about deficit reduction. It wasn't in 1990, and it's not now. This is not the way you reduce the deficit. Go back to 1985, '86, '87, '88, and '89, and you'll see deficit reduction, and you'll see it with lowering tax rates, and an expanding economy, 23 million new jobs created.

This plan is simply about more spending money for members of Congress. It is about the expansion of power. It is about making you as dependent as possible on government services. It is about convincing you that the solution to every problem resides only in the halls of Congress.

> **"At the risk of sounding immodest, we are on the verge of getting the largest deficit reduction package in the history of this republic, putting that deficit reduction package in the law."**
> **— Sen. Jim Sasser, September, 1990**

He is ecstatic. He is proud. He is happy. He is delighted to get the biggest "daffisut" reduction package in the history of the nation signed into law. Yet what did Sen. Sasser say 2 1/2 years later as he pushed virtually the same deal:

> **"Now let's bear in mind, while we're being critical of this Administration, this President, he didn't create these deficits. These deficits are the result of 12 years of the most irresponsible fiscal policy in the history of the United States of America."**
> **— Sen. Jim Sasser, June 22, 1993**

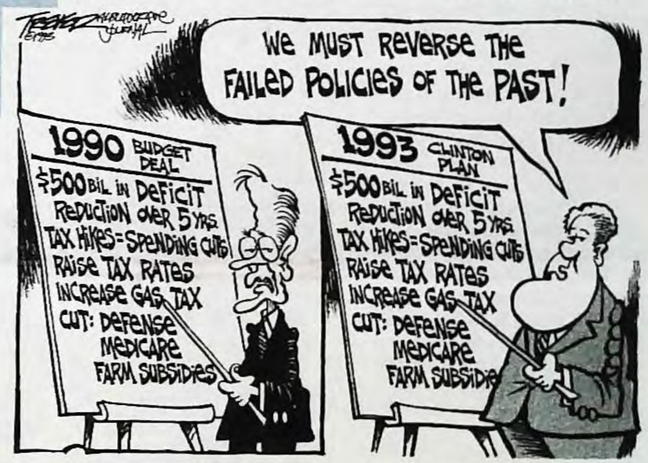
This is nothing but Democratic Party handbook cliché. We all know the problem wasn't the last 12 years. It was the 1990 budget deal that slowed down the economy. You fired a President because of it.

We were supposed to have reduced the deficit by $500 billion at the end of five years. Half of the time has elapsed... are we anywhere near the goal? No. I keep pointing this out because no one else is. We must resonate it. It must be emphasized again and again.

By Congressional Budget Office figures, confirmed by President Clinton's plan, the budget deficits of the next five years hover between $290 billion and $302 billion. The deficit is not getting smaller under this plan. The deficit is going to get bigger. The national debt is going to be expanded by $1.5 trillion. Those are Clinton's own numbers. How do you claim this is deficit reduction? By what math does the debt get smaller when it grows by $1.5 trillion?

Look at the smoking gun from the IRS. The 1991 numbers — the first since the 1990 deal — prove my case. Tax receipts from "the rich" fell by $6.5 billion, or 6.1 percent, as their tax rates rose. What have I been telling you? Higher taxes mean lower revenues. They did under the 1990 deal. And they will under this one. The Congress knows it. Bill Clinton knows it. If they refuse to admit it, it's because of arrogance, they think they're better people and this rehash won't harm the country this time.

It's the same deal with the same words, with the same objectives, with the same rationale. It didn't work the first time. It isn't going to work this time. And the same guys that screwed it up in 1990 are about to screw it up again. The same Democrats who were the architects of the 1990 budget deal are the architects of this deal: Foley; Gephardt, Panetta; Moynihan; Bentsen. It's the same Democrats with the same insulting rhetoric.



AND THEY THINK WE'RE STUPID enough to have forgotten 2 1/2 years ago. They know that nobody in the major network news media is going to replay what they said 2 1/2 years ago. But now we're here. And we can point out that there is no intellectual reason for this. It's absolute fraud.

Whether you consider the President's plan is good or bad, one thing you have to admit: when we are told the situation is so drastic that we must do something we haven't done before, when we are told that this is the first "honest" budget in 12 years, we are being lied to, we are being snookered, we are being played for fools, we are being played for suckers by Democratic members of the United States House of Representatives and the Senate and the President of the United States.

Whether you agree with the plan or not, you cannot possibly support or accept the way you're being treated by the Democratic Congress.

Can you? ■

"Dittos, Rush"

From across the fruited plain

For two weeks I was deprived of your program because my wife, Cathie, and I were motorcycling through the Black Hills of South Dakota. It was great to hear you again when we headed back east in our van. Along the way, we stopped for gas. Cathie had to use the rest room. I filled the tank and jumped back in the van to get back to your show. It was great; two more hours of Rush. As you went off the air, I pulled into a restaurant for lunch. To my surprise, I was alone. Rush, I had left my wife in a service station in the Badlands of South Dakota... 130 miles back down the road. My wife sat in that gas station for four and a half hours. The bad part is she knew exactly why I drove away without her and why I didn't notice. Rush, you are just one notch below me on her spit list. Whenever she's in the car now, I have to turn your show off. She remained mad at me for only four and half hours. Sorry, Rush, she still hates you. — Dick Roberts, Demarest, NJ

*You have to turn the show **off**? Dick, I can't help you on this one... I would never suggest that you to take your wife back to the Badlands.*

I am a practicing witch and was offended by a cartoon and accompanying article in your newsletter ["Witch Patrol," June issue, p. 7]. You may not be aware that witchcraft, or Wicca, is a government recognized religion. We ask for an apology. Your article has reinforced in readers the image we have tried to change for years. I personally have no warts. I have begun to encourage others to write in. Most will not have as even a temper as I.

— G.I., Ft. Wayne, IN

So I'm being threatened by witches. What else is new?

I cherish the monthly dose of truth I receive from your letter. But I discovered over adult beverages that a long-time friend didn't share my feelings. He's a devoted Clintonite who expects his beliefs to stand without scrutiny. "I didn't like what it said," he told me. "So I burned it." So much for liberal open mindedness.

— Michael J. Driscoll, Livonia, MI

Sounds like your bud wants to be president of the University of Pennsylvania. They have an opening, you know.

I cannot begin to express my appreciation for your interview with Charles Barkley. My son has not been performing well in school. He is, however, a basketball enthusiast. Mr. Barkley's articulate expression of what it takes to succeed is bound to have a greater impact on my son than "Dad" harping at him to use the brain God gave him. I hope my son will see the wisdom of Mr. Barkley's words. Such phrases as "...if you're going to do something, you might as well do it 110 percent" and, "The kids who make good grades are happy..." are phrases from my own lexicon. Thank you, Rush. — D.B., Stockton, CA

*Thank **you**! Never underestimate the power of inspiration.*

I finally subscribed to ***The Limbaugh Letter.*** Rush, it's wonderful. The other night my son, nieces and nephew insisted I show them what I was reading. What a great opportunity for me to read aloud your interview with Charles Barkley. I could see their eyes widen. I know they were thinking, "Wow, Barkley's special and he didn't give in to peer pressure. He wanted to be the best!" This is just one instance when I used your words, either from your book or letter, to reinforce what I've been teaching. — Kathleen S. Hill, MD

Good, Kathleen. Glad you and the kids enjoyed it. The kids: they're one of the reasons we did the Barkley interview.

I'm an American who happens to be black. My wife and I love you, and think you're a courageously great American. We began listening to you during the Presidential campaign and soon gleefully tested positive for EIB. Rush, it angers me when people call you racist! Anyone who dares speak the truth or criticize a liberal sacred cow is labeled racist, bigoted, sexist, homophobic. As a black man, I find liberalism offensive. It treats black people like inferior, helpless children who can't make it on their own. How demeaning! You, on the other hand, believe in the human spirit and encourage everyone to be the best they can be. Thank God for Rush Limbaugh. — Lloyd Marcus, Baltimore, MD

Thank you, Lloyd, and thank God for people like you. Your note is infectious and inspiring. I am delighted that you have joined us on the cutting edge of societal evolution.

I gave my liberal son-in-law your letter as a gift. After receiving only one issue, he is a devoted fan. He watches your show nightly, and takes the newsletter to work. Another person won over to our side! (His wife has yet to pick up the letter; we are hoping the process of osmosis will help.) He posted some of your quotes at work and challenged the liberals to guess who made the statements. Answers ranged from JFK to Jefferson to Lincoln. — Dan Murphy, Joplin, MO

You mean no one guessed a modern-day liberal?! And no one guessed Hitler? Don't tell me I've discovered the mainstream.

I want to thank you for helping to alleviate the gloom I have felt sincethe election. When I discovered your program I was amazed that someone who supported the conservative viewpoint and a respect for high moral values was allowed three hours of air time. One thought: With all the outrage over ethnic cleansing in Bosnia, is there not a parallel in the U.S. with the Clintons' attacks on the wealthy? Could this not be called "class cleansing," trying to stigmatize an economic class of our society for no crime other than being monetarily different? — Steven Carter, Davis, OK

You have been listening, Steven. As I have explained, class envy and class warfare is this Administration's obsession. And by the way, I am not "allowed" air time. I have earned it.

Why Not Be the Best?

continued from page 1

This, my friends, is drivel. Children "hurt" by a coloring contest! And the typical liberal self-righteousness and arrogance here is palpable. This woman knows what's best for children, unlike the eeeevil restaurant, which wants to torture the little dears with crayons and paper.

What's ironic is that she obviously has no idea about what real kids are like. As any parent will tell her, children "fully understand" competition at an extremely early age. They seek it out. It is so much a part of human nature that there isn't a playground anywhere that doesn't have some kind of contest going on right now. Kids test themselves against each other. Who's faster? Stronger? Cooler? And the fastest, strongest, coolest then become the ones to beat. And on it goes.

Put kids together for five minutes, and the result is an argument about who's better at something... which has to be settled in a race, or a game of "Oh, yeah? Well I bet you can't do this." It's motivational. It's built into us.

I AM ALWAYS PUZZLED by people who don't seem to have any memory of their own childhood. This woman went into the art field. I will guarantee you that somewhere, sometime, as a little girl — before she found her "inner bitch" — this person participated in an art contest. And lived to tell the tale.

The sad thing about this kind of loony thinking is that it is so common. It is the pervasive and virtually unchallenged philosophy among the educational bureaucracy in this country. The idea that people have to be somehow "protected" from the experience of losing or failing is the epitome of liberalism. What really happens, however, is that they are protected from learning. They are protected from reality. They are protected from the very mechanism that builds character and strength and spirit. And if there are no losers, my friends, there can be no winners. If there is no failure, there can be no success.

I HAVE BEEN THINKING a great deal about winning and losing in the last few weeks. During the NBA finals, I was invited by Phoenix Suns head coach Paul Westphal and his lovely and gracious wife, Cindy, to visit with them. After game two, thrill upon thrill, I was invited to fly into Chicago with the Suns on their charter, and then go to game three at Chicago Stadium. Danny Ainge sat next to me for much of that flight. And he said something profound to me that has spurred my thinking.

The Suns were down 0 to 2, and everyone had a theory about it. Ainge said, "You know, there's a huge difference between showing up and playing, enjoying it, having fun, trying to do well — and showing up and playing to win. It's an entirely different mindset. It has nothing to do with physical things. It has nothing to do with athletics. It has to do with attitude. Something happens when you show up to win."

And that hit me. It is a momentous statement. I had known this instinctively, but he verbalized it. That is why, when a reporter — and this happens a lot — asks me: "So. Did you expect to rise to the top like this? Did you ever think that all of this would happen?" my answer is always: "Yeah, I've always known it. I've always strived for it. I didn't do this to get into the top five."

I am continually surprised by the question. Some people think that you shoot for the top five, top ten... and you get there, that's it. Hey, man, I've done it. I've succeeded. But there's a huge difference between just striving to do well, enjoy it, have fun — and striving to win, become numero uno, get to the top. And I say, Why not be the best?

But this idea is under attack. I reference a recent *New York Times* article about the annual Van Cliburn piano competition: "Dancing to the tune of anti-elitism, musical competitions reevaluating the idea of being Number One." The article reads: "Competition, like life, can be brutish and destructive to the artistic spirit. But this year, in tune with the anti-elitist times and in response to the rising criticism of artistic contests in general and the Cliburn in particular, the competition tried to outdo itself." And I quote the executive director of the Cliburn competition: "We must stamp out the concept of better."

THIS IS POPPYCOCK, my friends. How can you possibly have a piano competition without the concept of better? We all know that some people play the piano better than others — but apparently it's not fair to point that out. Yet, despite this desire to stamp out the concept of better, the executive director couldn't avoid distinguishing among the contestants. Later in the article he is quoted as saying: "Our six winners are the cream; the best we found." I thought you weren't looking for the best, Mr. Director. I thought everybody was the same.

The reason competition is

Why Not Be the Best?

such a bad word among liberals is it's unfair that somebody achieves more than someone else, performs better than someone else. Why? Comparing people or ideas requires a value judgement. It requires there to be objective reality, with a means of measuring performance. This offends one of the basic tenets of liberalism: all points of view, and all behavior, and all perceptions are equally "valid" — a big liberal word — and of equal merit. We all have our "own reality." If liberals concede "better" and "best," it's a slippery slope right down the abyss to the idea of right and wrong. And we certainly can't have that.

THIS REMINDS ME OF A COMMENT sports announcer Marv Albert made after Hannah Storm interviewed me briefly during one of the commercial breaks in Phoenix during the NBA finals. "Can you imagine if Rush Limbaugh did play-by-play for the Suns? He'd probably suggest five years mandatory for traveling violations." And Marv chuckled at his wit.

Marv has missed it completely. Probably actually participated in a coloring contest as a child. No, Marv. All I am is a guy who believes in following the rules. If somebody commits a traveling violation, you give the ball to the other team. Finis. Period. That's what I would do: enforce the rules. I wouldn't make them up on the spot.

But let's examine how a foul might be dealt with if Marv Albert or other liberals ran the NBA.

First, each foul would be examined in light of the background of the fouler. Is he from some ethnic group that's been mistreated? He may have a right to foul. He may have a right to commit 35 fouls. In some cases you'd have bias-related fouls. You'd have hate fouls.

Second, the impact of the foul call on his psyche and on the interpersonal relationship between the fouler and his teammates would be analyzed. If it's going to have a psychologically negative effect, or damage anybody's self-esteem, we'll have to re-examine the call.

Third, the game would have to be stopped so the root causes that made the player commit the foul in the first place could be studied. Why did he do it? It isn't his fault. He didn't mean to do it. There has to be a societal reason or abuse in his childhood that made him hack his opponent's arm. So we'd have a government-funded study to find out.

Fourth, they'd have to determine if the victim of the foul is a homophobe — in which case the foul's okay, because you can do anything to a homophobe. It that's the case, then the fouler is celebrated. The fouler is made a hero. The fouler is called brave and courageous.

And then, my friends, you'd have to do a fan impact study. How do they feel about it? They may riot. They may blow up the stadiums. They may launch an offensive against the referees. And what does the official do in his private life? Has he ever been guilty of sexual harassment?

This is what would happen if liberals ran the NBA. As you can see, we'd all be protected. No one would ever lose; no one would ever win, and as is always the case with liberals, nothing would ever get accomplished.

WHICH LEADS US, my friends, to the most significant corollaries of competition: innovation and progress. The reason I am so disturbed by the growing tentacles of anti-competition throughout society is that it strikes at the heart of this country's historic means of creating wealth and fostering self-improvement.

The American standard of living, which has led the world for decades, is the direct result of unleashed economic activity born of competition, with the incentives of desire for recognition and financial gain (demonized by the left as power and greed). Our enormous advances in technology, science, medicine, research have sprung directly from a population energized by competition — the desire to be the best, to excel, to achieve, to beat the other guy.

Despite liberal distaste for such yearnings, centralized bureaucratic control of the state, the preferred modus operandi of the left, can never, ever match the brilliant chaos of the free marketplace of ideas. Government cannot compete — which may be the key reason supporters of the state so despise competition. As the saying goes, he who cannot dance blames the floor.

FORTUNATELY, while the liberal nuisance class of carping academics, activists, and government grant junkies runs around scolding the rest of us to reject the evils of competition and instead hold hands and pretend to be alike, they cannot, no matter how hard they try, change human nature. Kids in playgrounds, athletes on the field and in the court, business men and women in offices, entrepreneurs in kitchens, basements and garages will, in this America, still defy all the odds — propelled by this simply, inspiring question: Why not be the best?

Rush Limbaugh

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